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First regular session 2006
20 to 27 January 2006, New York
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Organizational matters

Annual work plan 2006 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA

I. Overview

1. The draft annual work plan 2006 was prepared by the Executive Board secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Executive Board. As noted in Board decision 2005/42, there will be two regular sessions and one annual session in 2006.

2. A joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP and UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), will be held during the first regular session in January 2006.

II. UNDP

A. Policy and management

3. In 2006 the Executive Board will continue to follow the harmonized reporting modality for the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) laid out in its decision 2004/20. Accordingly, the annual report of the Administrator 2006, scheduled for submission at the annual session, will focus on progress towards results during 2005 and contain in-depth analysis of the capacity development issue, as endorsed in decision 2005/20. Prior to this discussion, the Board will review the timeline for preparation and discussion of the end-of-cycle assessment of MYFF performance, 2004-2007, and the process leading to the new MYFF, 2008-2011 at the first regular session.

4. The Board will also pursue its gender mainstreaming and gender equality agenda in 2006 with an evaluation report on gender mainstreaming in UNDP, the management response to that report and the gender action plan 2006-2007. The Board will also consider as an evaluation of UNDP HIV/AIDS work in Southern Africa and Ethiopia, together with the UNDP management response. The

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Administrator's annual report on evaluation will be submitted at the second regular session.

5. Regarding the funds and programmes, at the first regular session 2006 the Board is scheduled to table a United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) report on budgeting and programming decision-making processes, an organizational assessment of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and an update on the financial situation of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), as well as a report on UNOPS progress in implementing transition measures. UNIFEM and UNOPS will submit their Executive Directors' annual reports at the annual session. At that session the Board will also review the Administrator's report on the United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

6. The Board will resume its discussion of South-South cooperation with the tabling of the progress report on implementing the third cooperation framework at the annual session.

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/264, a separate agenda item will be devoted to the *Human Development Report* at the annual session, adhering to the agreed consultation process with Member States and ensuring quality and accuracy without compromising editorial independence.

B. Programme matters

8. In accordance with Executive Board decision 2001/11, country programmes presented to the Board in 2005 will be approved on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion at the first regular session 2006. Draft country programme documents (CPDs) and new regional cooperation frameworks will be presented to the Board at its annual and second regular sessions.

9. At the first regular session 2006, the Administrator will report to the Executive Board on assistance to Myanmar outlining the major conclusions, recommendations and strategic challenges identified by the independent assessment mission of the Human Development Initiative phase IV (2002-2005), followed by an oral report at the second regular session.

10. *Joint segment.* During the joint segment of the first regular session, UNDP and UNFPA will present a joint report to the Economic and Social Council on activities undertaken in 2005. UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS will also report on the implementation of recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2002-2003.

11. At the annual session, the UNDP and UNOPS reports on internal audit and oversight services provided by the Office of Audit and Performance Review for the year ended 31 December 2005 will be submitted to the Board, together with a management response.

12. On the programming process, at the first regular session UNDP and UNFPA will present a joint report on cost-effective approaches to providing programme-level data in accordance with decision 2005/30. The Board will also table a UNDP-UNFPA joint report on implementing joint programming and United Nations Development Group joint programming guidelines, in line with decision 2005/10, along with a report elaborated jointly with UNICEF on possible options to improve and streamline the current harmonized country programme approval procedure, in line with decision 2005/28.

13. At its second regular session 2006, the Board will have before it reports from UNDP and UNFPA on the follow-up to recommendations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board.

C. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

14. The Executive Board will review the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes at the annual session, in accordance with decision 98/23. In line with established practice, at its second regular session the Board will have before it the annual review of the financial situation for 2005, information on United Nations system technical cooperation expenditures, and the report of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2002-2003. The Board will also continue its discussion of cost-recovery issues with a report on current practices for determining specific cost-recovery rates and clear cost-recovery criteria.

III. UNFPA

15. In 2006, UNFPA will continue its work to implement the outcome of the 2005 World Summit, assisting programme countries in the realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) that are pivotal to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In supporting the efforts of programme countries to address poverty eradication, UNFPA will focus on building national capacity and supporting national development strategies, including through advancing United Nations reform. Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system is a shared responsibility and UNFPA will continue its strong effort and contribution in that regard. During 2006, UNFPA will continue to strengthen the capacity of its own staff, as well as that of national counterparts, to better integrate reproductive health, population and gender issues in poverty reduction strategy processes.

16. The Fund's programmatic efforts will focus on scaling up and sustaining progress. In supporting country efforts to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development, UNFPA will continue to emphasize culturally sensitive programming approaches, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and human rights. Consistent with the focus of the new aid architecture on aid effectiveness, UNFPA is committed to delivering its programme in an efficient and effective way, with a particular emphasis on monitoring, evaluation and accountability. Strategic planning, strengthening partnerships, including with civil society and the private sector, mobilizing resources, and promoting a coordinated and coherent United Nations development effort at country, regional and global levels will remain hallmarks of the work of UNFPA. Recognizing the urgent need for reliable data for development to track progress in meeting ICPD goals and the MDGs, UNFPA plans to play a more prominent role, along with other development partners, in strengthening national data systems and building capacities for data collection, analysis, dissemination and utilization. The Fund will also continue to promote knowledge sharing and South-South cooperation modalities.

A. Policy and programme matters

17. At the first regular session, in accordance with decision 2001/11, the Executive Board is called on to approve a number of country programme documents (CPDs) that were reviewed and discussed at earlier sessions.

18. Under the joint UNDP/UNFPA segment, at the first regular session, UNFPA will present a report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2002-2003. At this session, UNFPA and UNDP will present a joint report to the Economic and Social Council. In addition, in response to decision 2005/30, UNFPA and UNDP will present a joint report on proposals on cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data.

19. Also, under the joint segment, there will be a presentation on Post-conflict peacebuilding: The role of UNDP and UNFPA in Africa (in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

20. A joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF, with the participation of the WFP Executive Board, will take place during the first regular session. The joint meeting will focus on the following four themes: (a) Capacity-building and capacity development; (b) Transition from relief to development, focusing on natural disasters; (c) HIV/AIDS: Follow-up to the recommendations of the Global Task Team; and (d) Simplification and harmonization, with a special focus on the programming process. UNFPA will serve as the overall coordinator for the joint meeting in addition to leading the segment on simplification and harmonization.

21. At the annual session, the Executive Director will present her annual report for 2005, including highlights of the UNFPA programme for the year, as well as a statistical overview. The Fund's response to the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit will also be included as part of the annual report of the Executive Director.

22. UNFPA will submit a number of draft country programme documents to the Executive Board at the annual session. In accordance with decision 2001/11, the CPDs are presented for discussion. A note on assistance to Myanmar will also be submitted to the Board at this session.

23. Furthermore, at the annual session, UNFPA will present a periodic report on evaluation to the Executive Board.

24. UNFPA will also be responsible for organizing a special event at the annual session on the theme of population and poverty eradication.

25. Under the joint UNDP/UNFPA segment, at the annual session, UNFPA will present a report on internal audit and oversight. In response to decision 2005/10, UNFPA and UNDP will present a joint report on implementation of joint programming and on UNDG joint programming guidelines. In addition, UNFPA and UNDP will submit a report elaborated jointly with UNICEF on possible options to improve and streamline the current harmonized country programme approval process.

26. At the second regular session, in response to decision 2005/40, UNFPA will present a report on its corporate strategy for emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery. Draft country programmes will also be presented at this session.

27. Under the joint UNDP/UNFPA segment, at the second regular session, UNFPA will report on follow-up to the recommendations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board. The report will include information regarding the implementation of the Three Ones and the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination Among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors.

B. Managing for results

28. The new aid architecture lays strong emphasis on managing for results, including monitoring progress against key indicators. The Executive Director will report

periodically during the year on how UNFPA is strengthening its organizational effectiveness for managing results with specific reference to the Fund's priority pillars for 2006. Strengthening organizational effectiveness is an ongoing process at UNFPA. The five key managing-for-results dimensions and the lead indicators presented in the 2004-2007 MYFF will be used to monitor the Fund's effectiveness. UNFPA is fully committed to United Nations reform processes, including simplification and harmonization of procedures. The Fund will continue to work with its development partners to enhance coherent, effective and efficient delivery of aid at the country level in support of national development strategies, institutions and procedures, with an emphasis on building national capacity and reducing transaction costs.

C. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

29. A report on funding commitments will be submitted to the Executive Board at the annual session. In conjunction with the presentation of the report, donors would announce pledges to UNFPA, if they have not already done so earlier. At the second regular session, UNFPA will submit the annual financial review 2005.

Annual work plan 2006 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA

First regular session: 20 - 27 January 2006

1. Organizational matters

- Election of the Bureau of the Board for 2006
- Adoption of the agenda and work plan for the session
- Adoption of the report on the second regular session 2005
- Adoption of the annual work plan 2006 of the Executive Board
- Working methods of the Executive Board

UNDP segment

2. Multi-year funding framework

- Timeline for the preparation and discussion of the end-of-cycle assessment of performance of the MYFF, 2004-2007, and for the process leading to the preparation of the MYFF, 2008-2011

3. Country programmes and related matters

- Approval of country programme documents
- Report of the assessment mission to Myanmar

4. Evaluation

- Evaluation of gender mainstreaming in UNDP

5. Gender in UNDP

- Management response to the evaluation of gender mainstreaming in UNDP
- Report on the medium-term gender action plan
- Gender action plan 2006-2007

6. United Nations Capital Development Fund

- Report on UNCDF budgeting and programming decision-making processes

7. United Nations Development Fund for Women

- Organizational assessment: UNIFEM Past, Present and Future (Report of the Advisory Panel to the UNIFEM Consultative Committee)

8. United Nations Office for Project Services

- Update on UNOPS financial situation
- Progress in the implementation of transition measures

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

9. Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

   - Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2002-2003

10. Reports to the Economic and Social Council

11. Programming process

   - UNDP/UNFPA report on proposals on cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data (dec. 2005/30)

UNFPA segment

12. Country programmes and related matters

   - Approval of country programme documents

13. Other matters

Post-conflict peacebuilding: The role of UNDP and UNFPA in Africa (Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo)

JOINT MEETING of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP (20 and 23 January 2006). The four themes are as follows:

- Capacity-building and capacity development
- Transition from relief to development, focusing on natural disasters
- HIV/AIDS: Follow-up to the recommendations of the Global Task Team
- Simplification and harmonization, with a special focus on the programming process

Annual session: 12 - 23 June 2006 (Geneva)

1. Organizational matters

   - Adoption of the agenda and work plan for the session
   - Adoption of the report on the first regular session 2006

UNFPA segment

2. Report of the Executive Director for 2005

   - Report of the Executive Director for 2005
   - Statistical overview
   - Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. Funding commitments to UNFPA

- Report on funding commitments to UNFPA

4. Country programmes and related matters

- Draft country programme documents
- Note on assistance to Myanmar

5. Evaluation

- Periodic report on evaluation

UNDP segment

6. Annual report of the Administrator

- Annual report of the Administrator 2005 (Theme – capacity development; ref. dec. 2004/20 and 2005/20)
- Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit
- Statistical annex

7. Funding commitments to UNDP

- Status of regular funding commitments to UNDP

8. Human Development Report

9. Country programmes and related matters

- Draft regional/country programme documents
- Extensions of country cooperation frameworks

10. South-South cooperation

- Progress report in implementing the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation

11. United Nations Office for Project Services

- Annual report of the Executive Director

12. United Nations Capital Development Fund

13. United Nations Volunteers

- United Nations Volunteers – Report of the Administrator

14. United Nations Development Fund for Women

- Annual report of the Executive Director (ref. dec. 2004/20)

15. Evaluation

- HIV/AIDS evaluation in Southern Africa and Ethiopia
- Management response

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

16. Internal audit and oversight

- Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and oversight, including the management response

17. Programming process

- UNDP/UNFPA report on implementation of joint programming and on UNDG joint programming guidelines (dec. 2005/10)
- UNDP/UNFPA report elaborated jointly with UNICEF on possible options to improve and streamline the current harmonized country programme approval procedure (dec. 2005/28)

18. Field visits

- Reports on field visits

19. Other matters

Special event to be organized by UNFPA (Theme: Population and poverty eradication)

Second regular session: 11 - 15 September 2006

1. Organizational matters

- Adoption of the agenda and work plan for the session
- Adoption of the report on the annual session 2006
- Draft work plan for 2007

UNDP segment

2. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

- Annual review of the financial situation, 2005
- Information on United Nations system technical cooperation expenditures
- Report of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2004-2005
- Statistical report of IAPSO
- Report on the current practice of determining specific cost-recovery rates and clear cost-recovery criteria

3. Evaluation

- Annual report of the Administrator on evaluation

4. Country programmes and related matters

   - Draft regional/country programme documents
   - Oral report on UNDP assistance to Myanmar

5. UNOPS: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

6. Follow-up to UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting

   - UNDP and UNFPA reports on follow-up to recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS

UNFPA segment

7. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

   - Annual financial review, 2005

8. Country programmes and related matters

   - Draft country programme documents

9. UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery

   - UNFPA corporate strategy for emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery

10. Other matters

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DP/FPA/2006/CRP.1

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda
Programming process

Cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data*

1. Background

1. At the annual session of the Executive Board, in June 2005, the Executive Board requested in decision 2005/30 that UNDP and UNFPA "make a proposal at the first regular session of the Executive Board in 2006 on cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data to their respective Boards as part of their programming and reporting cycles".

2. The Board acknowledged the substantial progress made by both organizations in reporting on results through the multi-year funding framework (MYFF). The Board noted the improvements made in terms of strategic focus and the responsiveness of programmes to the demands and priorities of countries. The Board also expressed interest in receiving more information on programme performance and the contribution of programmes to national development outcomes.

3. This joint conference room paper presents the combined perspectives of UNDP and UNFPA. The paper discusses the respective reporting systems and elaborates on issues and challenges that the organizations confront in presenting programme-level data at this particular juncture. It also discusses the United Nations harmonization and simplification process and the new international aid effectiveness principles. It highlights a potential divergence between these processes and the request of the Board that organization-specific programme-level data be made available to Board members. The paper concludes by presenting cost-effective approaches to sharing programme-level data using the current MYFF reporting process.

*The compilation of data required to provide the Executive Board with the most current information has delayed submission of the present document.

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II. Current reporting systems and content

4. UNDP and UNFPA maintain individual MYFF-based reporting arrangements which differ from each other in several important respects. For example, the UNDP reporting arrangements are based on a conceptual distinction between the achievements of UNDP per se in a programme country, and the achievements of the programme country itself. In the UNFPA approach, reporting on the MYFF interprets country performance using a set of development results associated with the mandate of the organization. Additionally, there are significant differences in the data systems that each organization has put in place for reporting.

5. The UNDP MYFF was introduced in 2000 as a critical tool to articulate and sharpen the priorities of the organization and to develop means of achieving its objectives within programming cycles. It is the most comprehensive report on the performance of UNDP, aggregating data from over 140 programme countries and reporting on performance in all the practice areas. The MYFF also provides a succinct analysis of the efficiency with which UNDP financial resources have been used.

6. The MYFF provides important and useful data on progress towards achieving organizational objectives. Generally speaking, a new set of principles and good practices is emerging as agencies work towards a shift to country strategies and programmes. This process is complex and requires a number of institutional changes in UNDP. The consultative process planned under the so-called road map[1] will to a large extent address this issue.

7. The UNFPA MYFF was also introduced in 2000. The second MYFF, which is currently under implementation, defines UNFPA contributions to development results, indicates how progress will be measured and identifies the strategies to be used to attain results. The MYFF report presents information on about 120 programme countries, highlighting progress made to achieve national population and development objectives. It also indicates how UNFPA has contributed in particular areas of its mandate to support national partners and presents a set of robust indicators on UNFPA organizational effectiveness.

III. Issues and challenges to presenting programme-level data

Self-reported versus independently verified information

8. In both organizations, MYFF reporting has essentially been built on self-reported data from country offices. In the case of UNFPA, however, it also incorporates data provided by national implementing agencies. Members of the Board and some donors have, in the past, highlighted the fact that the data should therefore not be relied on to provide accurate, objective perspectives on UNFPA performance. In accepting this suggestion, UNDP and UNFPA have taken a number of steps to improve the quality and integrity of its data.

9. In the case of UNDP, the information provided by country offices is now subject to audits in addition to regional bureau oversight. Moreover, the number of

[1] Time line for the preparation of the end-of-cycle assessment of performance (2004-2007), DP/2006/3

assessments of development results (ADRs) undertaken annually is increasing. The ADRs provide a rigorous, evidence-based assessment of programme outcomes and impact at the country level. In addition to these measures, substantial investments are being made to strengthen the capacity of the organization in the area of results-based management. The current 'PRINCE 2' and 'CEDAR[2]' training and certification exercises involving all staff are key components of this capacity-building effort.

10. UNFPA has revised its guidelines and formats for annual reporting to make them more results oriented. It has also introduced several mechanisms to validate the information provided by country offices, including a closer review of country office reports by regional divisions and further analysis in the Programme Committee. There are plans to include an assessment of the quality of information provided in country office reports as part of the audit exercise. UNFPA has conducted training at the regional level to improve the results-based programme planning, monitoring and evaluation practices that are the basis of meaningful results reporting. UNFPA headquarters has just concluded a meta-evaluation to assess and improve the quality of evaluations, which are increasingly conducted by country offices to assess programme performance and the achievement of results.

11. The initiatives undertaken by UNDP and UNFPA are expected to result in greater standardization and better-quality data to assess country programme performance. However, both organizations consider that it is at present not possible to share share-programme level data with Board members, given the additional investment in efforts and resources that would be required to validate and process the information. UNFPA has the added complication that some of the reported data is provided by the national institutions implementing the country programmes, which provide programme performance information without being aware that it will be shared with a wider audience and will be subject to specific scrutiny.

MYFF reporting cycles versus impact time frames

12. Another important issue is that a proper assessment of programme performance and impact cannot be made annually, since it takes more than a year for progress and results to become apparent. The MYFF reports reflect the annual achievements of country programmes towards meeting their specific annual targets, but they do not present evidence of impact, which occurs over a longer time span – in some cases even beyond the duration of the country programme. Therefore, useful information on programme-level performance and impact is best provided and captured by assessments and evaluations at the end of programme cycles, with the full participation of the respective Government.

13. In view of that fact, both organizations recognize that evidence-based data on performance and organizational results for individual country programmes are likewise best provided at the end of the programme cycle, prior to submitting new country programmes for approval by the Board.

[2] Capacity for Efficient Delivery of Achievable Results project

IV. United Nations reform and harmonized reporting

14. Against the backdrop of current United Nations reform measures, and the growing momentum towards harmonizing and integrating programming in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and national development plans and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers that integrate the MDGs, the Executive Board needs to consider whether it wishes to pursue requests for individual agencies to provide programme-level data at this time.

15. Following the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the United Nations Development Group is guiding United Nations country teams in the direction of integrated and results-based UNDAFs, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting mechanisms that reflect the collective contribution of United Nations organizations to national development outcomes at the country level.

16. The follow-up to the World Summit outcome document requires coordinated action by United Nations country teams to build national capacity; to incorporate the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs, as critical outcomes of national development strategies; to translate them into concrete programmes and interventions; and to follow up on their implementation.

V. Recommendations

17. As noted earlier, UNDP and UNFPA have different MYFF structures and somewhat diverse systems and practices for gathering, analysing and reporting programme-related information. For this reason, cost-effective approaches to sharing programme level data must be agency-specific. UNDP and UNFPA have also identified a common opportunity for making available more specific programme information at the time of the country programme approval.

UNDP-specific approaches

18. While the scope for provision of data in terms of the 2005 MYFF will present some limitations, initial pilot assessments of programme level data could be considered for specific categories of countries in accordance with criteria agreed to by the Board – for example countries of particular attention vis-à-vis achievement of the MDGs[3] and/or countries where the Paris Declaration follow-up offers most opportunities for learning. Feedback from such an initiative could provide important input into the above-mentioned road map consultations.

19. Alternatively, the groundwork can be laid for the development of some programme level reporting system for the 2004-2007 cumulative report for countries that could be of special interest to the Board, such as least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked countries (LLCs) or fragile countries.

UNFPA-specific approaches

20. Given the scope of the MYFF, that reflects UNFPA partnerships in support of the broader national development frameworks, and the type of data collected, which basically describe country development performance, further guidance from the Board will be necessary to better define the programme-level data that is being

[3] e.g., the Millennium Project pilot countries.

requested. In the light of the new principles of aid effectiveness, as reflected in the Paris Declaration, that emphasize on country ownership for development results, it would be necessary to agree with the programme countries what information UNFPA would be able to share. With regard to agency programme performance, although the UNFPA MYFF (unlike the UNDP MYFF) was not built to assess organizational results,the formulation of the next MYFF would provide an opportunity to reflect these information requirements.

21. In addition to the common approach presented in paragraph 22, below, the MYFF cumulative report, due in June 2007, presents the only cost-effective opportunity currently in place within UNFPA to provide more information on programme performance for achieving development results for categories or groups4 of countries of special interest to the Board (LDCs, LLCs or fragile countries).

Approaches for both agencies

22. The current process for the approval of new country programmes provides for sharing country-specific programme-level data with the Board as part of the assessment of the previous country programme performance. Since information requirements may evolve over time, particularly with the furthering of United Nations joint programming, UNDP and UNFPA would maintain periodic consultations with the Board to review these requirements and address any additional information needs that may emerge in the future.

23. Since UNDP and UNFPA are currently preparing to submit new MYFFs to the Executive Board in September 2007, there is an opportunity to review the focus and structure of these strategic documents to ensure that they fully conform to the emerging role of the United Nations development organizations in the context of United Nations reform and the new development architecture. The development of the new MYFFs will be open, transparent and consultative with all Executive Board members, providing a unique opportunity to address the needs of all members in a consistent manner.

[4] For the reasons indicated in paragraphs 11and 13, it will not be possible to share individual country programme level data.